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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. HAMADA, et al.
Application No.: 10/762,359
Filed: January 23, 2004
For: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD
Art Unit: 1725
Examiner: Kiley Shawn Stoner

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98**

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 28, 2005

Sir:

Pursuant to applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a copy of an European Search Report, and documents cited therein, in connection with an European Patent Application corresponding to the above-identified Application. Also enclosed is a Form PTO/SB/08A&B, listing the enclosed documents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to issuance of a Notice of Allowance in the above-identified application, but prior to payment of the Issue Fee. For satisfying requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.97(d), the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) is enclosed, and the following Statement is made under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3)


months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English it is respectfully submitted that requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by the enclosed European Search Report citing relevant passages thereof.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 & 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with each of the documents listed on the enclosed Form. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, and, subsequent thereto, issuance of a U.S. patent based upon the above-identified application in due course are respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 648.43409X00).

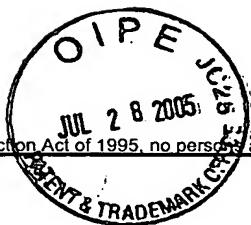
Respectfully submitted,
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July 28, 2005



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number | 10/762,359 |
| Filing Date | January 23, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor | K. Hamada |
| Art Unit | 1725 |
| Examiner Name | Kiley Shawn Stoner |
| Attorney Docket Number | 648.43409X00 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
| | | US- 5 275 327 A | | 1/4/94 | Watkins, et al. | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | EP 1 224 998 A | 7/24/02 | Hitachi, Ltd. | | |
| | | FR 2 610 231 A | 8/5/88 | Pierre Guerin SA | | |
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Examiner
SignatureDate
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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